The Cleveland Museum of Art

News Release

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FREE PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON *THE MUSEUM AND THE COMMUNITY* CELEBRATES REOPENING OF BERGMAN GALLERY SEPT. 15 & 16

Free Guest Lectures and Family Events October through December

CLEVELAND — Internationally prominent museum directors and other renowned scholars will travel to the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) to be a part of *The Museum and the Community: A Conference in Memory of Robert P. Bergman*, a public event that is the centerpiece of the Sept. 15–16 weekend dedication of the Robert P. Bergman Memorial Gallery of Early Christian and Byzantine Art. The conference is free, but tickets are required. Tickets are available by calling **1-888-CMA-0033** or visiting **www.clevelandart.org**.* The conference will also be simulcast on the Web site, a first for CMA.

"This marks the opening of the Bergman gallery," said CMA director Katharine Lee Reid, "and celebrates Bob Bergman's dual passions: first, his commitment to art museums serving their communities, and second, the sacred and sumptuous world of Early Christian and Byzantine art."

Evan M. Maurer, director and president of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, is honorary chair of the conference. Maurer commented: "Through Bob's leadership in the art museum community, in particular his long service as trustee and president of the Association of Art Museum Directors, many of his ideas came to national attention. It is fair to say the kinds of programs and challenges that will be addressed by the museum directors at this event were ones he had been involved with and about which we had gained knowledge from talking with him. Bob's example as a scholar, connoisseur, and curator was in itself a model of continued serious involvement in the discipline of the history of art while working as a director to bring the enjoyment of art to all audiences."

Maurer is co-organizing the conference with CMA deputy director Kate M. Sellers, who worked with Bergman for many years here and at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. Asked about her hopes and goals for the conference, Sellers said: "The idea was to mark the gallery reopening with an event for lay listeners that would address Bob's overarching concern of how a museum relates to its audiences. Also, remembering Bob's five years of

sold-out annual winter lectures here about Early Christian and Medieval European art and architecture, I wanted to feature scholars who also could interpret this field to non-art historians in a lively way. I hope all will leave with a better understanding of the prism that is an art museum, and with heightened appreciation for the innovative thinking at work in many of them."

The conference itinerary follows:

Friday, Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Welcome by **Katharine Lee Reid**, director, the CMA
Keynote address by **Neil Harris**, the Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History, University of Chicago, *The American Art Museum and Its Publics: An Historical Summary*

Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Registration and coffee, 8 a.m.
Welcome by **Katharine Lee Reid**, director, the CMA; and **Evan M. Maurer**, honorary chairman of the conference and director and president, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 9:15 a.m.
Glenn D. Lowry, director, Museum of Modern Art, New York, *Museums and Their Communities: Art and the Public Trust*, 9:30 a.m.
Daniel H. Weiss, chairman, Art History Department, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, *Sacred Art and Civic Rule in Gothic Paris*, 10 a.m.
(Break, 10:30 a.m.)
Hugh M. Davies, the David C. Copley Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, *Bordering on Biculturalism: Making a Museum for San Diego and Tijuana*, 11 a.m.
William D. Wixom, curator emeritus of medieval art and The Cloisters at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *A Grand Tradition: Selective Collecting of Early Christian and Byzantine Art for Cleveland*, 11:30 a.m.
(Lunch break, 12 noon)
Evan M. Maurer, director and president, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, *Bringing Art to Life for Everyone — 12 Years at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts*, 1:30 p.m.
James Cuno, the Elizabeth and John Moors Cabot Director, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts, *Art Museums, Antiquities and the Public's Interest*, 2 p.m.
(Break, 2:30 p.m.)
Dorothy F. Glass, president, International Center of Medieval Art, New York, *Civic Pride and Civic Responsibility in Medieval Siena*, 3 p.m.
Gary Vikan, director, Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, *Jesus as a Man of Color: The Role of Museums in Presenting Religion in Art*, 3:30 p.m.
Panel discussion, 4 p.m.

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A free Sunday afternoon lecture series in October and November honors Bergman's memory by bringing noted scholars in the fields of Early Christian, Byzantine, and Medieval European art to CMA's stage. The first speaker, Bezalel Narkiss, is a distinguished medievalist who knew and taught Bergman. He took Bergman and a group of students to the Monastery of St. Catherine in the Sinai, a trip Bergman remembered well and recalled often. The other three are all eminent, widely published Byzantinists. The list of lecturers, topics, and dates follows. All are at 1:30 p.m. in the museum's Recital Hall:

(more ...)

Oct. 15, *Image and Symbol: The Holy Sepulchre in Early Christian Art, and Its Origins*
Bezalel Narkiss, Nicolas Landau Professor Emeritus of Art History and Chairman, Academic Committee, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Center for Jewish Art

Oct. 22, *Icons: An Egyptian Story*
Thomas F. Matthews, John Langeloth Loeb Professor in the History of Art, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York

Oct. 29, *The Making and Faking of Byzantine Ivories*
Anthony Cutler, Research Professor of Art History, Department of Art History, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Nov. 12, *The Art of Dining at the Byzantine Court*
Henry Maguire, Professor of the History of Art, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Eunice Maguire, Curator of the Archaeological Collection at Johns Hopkins University, will speak on *Luxury and Daily Life in the Byzantine Empire* at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1 (Lecture Hall).

Free family workshops will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m. every Sunday from Oct. 1 through Nov. 19. Called *Reflections on Medieval Magic*, they will enable families to produce different projects each week, inspired by the manuscripts, mosaics and tapestries in the Bergman gallery.

A **Byzantine Family Festival** from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, will offer hands-on workshops, manuscript and weaving demonstrations, gallery tours, storytelling, and puppet theater.

Education staff will present **gallery talks** at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, and Sunday, Oct. 15, and at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13.

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*Please note: **www.clevelandart.org** is the new Web address for the museum. However, the former Web address, **www.clemusart.com**, still functions. Invitations to the conference, previously mailed, incorrectly gave the new extension as ".com" instead of ".org."